

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 26, 34-35 and 39-40 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 26 and 39 are currently amended to correct minor informalities therein. The amendment is fully supported by the originally filed specification and/or figures and, thus, no new matter is introduced. No claims are currently cancelled and no new claims are currently added.

Accordingly, claims 26, 34-35 and 39-40 remain pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 26, 34-35 and 39-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lindoff et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,101,224) in view of Vilcocq et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0041638) and Hasson (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0123566).

In response, Applicants filed a Notice of Appeal on March 15, 2010. An Appeal Brief, filed concurrently with this Amendment Accompanying Appeal Brief, is directed to the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). This Amendment Accompanying Appeal Brief is being filed to correct minor informalities in claim 26 and a minor informality in claim 39 that were discovered by the applicants.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing and the concurrently filed Appeal Brief, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims, specifically, claims 26, 34-35 and 39-40, are in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge shortages or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,
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